

## Dogs Blog Fall 2025

September already! I've been remiss in writing and attending to my website in the last while. Sadly, tragically we lost our beloved Bri in November. She became ill very suddenly and succumbed to her illness on November 15th. Losing a young dog so unexpectedly is gut wrenching and life changing. As I write this, it brings back so many wonderful memories, along with the ache of her loss.

While I love ALL my dogs, Bri was so very special....her zest for life, and mostly the joy she exuded in anything she did! I miss that every day. Hektor grieved too! She was his daughter after all, and his BFF. I noted some changes in his demeanour, his neediness enhanced and our shared loneliness without that sweet girl.

Feeling guilt for not being able to save Bri, I also felt I'd let Hek down a little. Bri had become my focus and Hek was feeling left behind. Hard as it was to get back to any semblance of dog training, Hek and I got back to work. I'd started tracking with both dogs, and got back to training with Hek in earnest. He was a much happier dog spending more quality time with me, and things began to feel a little more normal.

In January this year, I made my last trip to the US. I'd entered both dogs in the IABCA Peace Arch Seiger in Lynden, WA. I'd thought of NOT going, but felt I owed it to Hektor. We'd been attending this show every year (except during COVID) since he was a puppy and he had just turned 10 in December ... now a "Super Veteran" . I'm so happy we made the trip. Hek had some of the best Conformation performances in his career: three group placements in a very competitive Herding group, and a Best and Reserve Veteran in show! It was as if Bri was cheering us both on:)) It was also wonderful to see so many friends that we had met over the years.



Since then, Hek continues to train and compete in Rally, He earned two impressive titles this year including his CARO Supreme Excellent Championship, and his CARO Grand Master Rally Championship.

Our tracking training has been intermittent over the summer months...hot weather and wasps have made training challenging, and field tracking is nearly impossible as farmers have their crops in and not many places to train. Urban tracking is much easier year round as school fields, community centres and such are easier to find locally.

We attended a UKC show in Lloydminster AB in July...a 2 day drive but it was worth it as Hektor once again turned judges heads with two group placements and a Reserve Best Veteran in show. It was a trip with another purpose and convenient! Bri's breeder is in Stony Plain, and there was a 10 week old puppy waiting for me on my return trip! I'd thought of not acquiring another Appenzeller, but when I saw this little bundle in May, I just had to reach out to Debbie Dales of Sun Meadow Appenzellers.

So here we are, once again, beginning a new journey with the fourth Appenzeller to be part of the family. Gus will never replace Bri...he is a very different dog, with a very different personality. My heart is once again full! Hektor is happy....mostly, having another dog to mentor, and to snuggle with on the couch!

Our days are filled with purpose, the calendar is filling up, and while Hek is "semi-retired", he still has a big job to teach the youngster all the wonderful things he taught Bri. With no travel to the US in our plans anytime soon, I'm grateful for all the opportunities we have in Canada!

As always, a busy Appenzeller is a happy Appenzeller!

Yours in Appenzellers

Bri Memorial tribute

For although we may not be together in the way we used to be,

We are still connected by a cord no eye can see.

So whenever you need to find me, we're never far apart

If you look beyond the Rainbow and listen with your heart.

*Beyond The Rainbow, Cate Guyan*

**CH Brigitte von Deroche Appenzellers**

CGN, CD SDO , RMX, AKC CD, RE, UKC ALGRCH, UR02, SPOT-ON, CARO Rally  
Master CH, Brace CH

**April 2, 2018 - November 15, 2024**

*Taken from us too soon, in the prime of her life. Rest easy, sweet girl.*

See Bri's video memorial [here](#).

